

Committee on Honors and Interdisciplinary Studies 2005-06 Report to the Faculty

Faculty Members: Alison Beach, Chuck Bailey, Ismail Abdalla, Jennifer Bickham Mendez, Chris Nemacheck, John Charles, John Swaddle, Joel Schwartz, Laurie Wolf, Lisa Grimes, Suzanne Raitt

Student Members: Jennifer Brikey, Tina Ho, Katherine Major, Matthew Oreska

The Committee has met twice in the fall semester and once so far this semester. Primary items of business have included:

(1) Monroe Scholars

Committee members advised 175 Monroe Scholars who submitted proposals for summer, 2005 projects. This includes students from two cohorts: the last group of “old-program” Monroes and the first group of “new-program” Monroes. Starting in fall, 2004 we introduced three changes to the Monroe Scholar Program: we increased the stipend for the summer project to \$3,000; we placed new emphasis on the requirement that these projects include a significant research component; and we began the practice of naming about 45 additional Monroes from the rising sophomore class. The current sophomore class is the first that was eligible for this.

(2) May Seminars

The Committee has sent out a call for proposals for the May Seminar Program. Proposals are due on March 24, 2006.

(3) Concentration Honors

Responding to an inquiry from a faculty member, the committee discussed whether it was appropriate for departments or individual faculty to award students grades at the end of the first term of honors. The committee unanimously agreed that honors is a holistic process, culminating in a thesis, and that it is not appropriate to award a grade at the end of the first term. We will work with the Registrar to make sure that it is clear to prospective graduate schools, employers, etc. that the place-holder grade that is awarded at the end of the first term (currently a “G”) is just that – a place-holder, and that it is clearly differentiated, for instance, from an “incomplete,” which would communicate a deficiency on the student’s part.

147 students registered for honors in fall, 2004 and to date 9 of these students have dropped, leaving 148 on track to defend this spring. Department/program numbers:

American Studies (2)	Linguistics (0)
Anthropology (5)	Neuroscience (8)
Applied Science (0)	International Relations (4)
Art and Art History (0)	International Studies (3)
Biology (15)	Mathematics (6)
Chemistry (10)	Modern Languages (8)
Classics (4)	Music (1)

Computer Science (3)	Philosophy (2)
Economics (5)	Physics (8)
English (18, and 2 dropped)	Psychology (3, and 1 dropped)
Geology (2)	Religion (2)
Government (8, and 2 dropped)	Sociology (0, and 4 dropped)
History (12)	Theatre (1)
Interdis.: Chinese Language and Lit. (1)	Public Policy (1)
Interdis.: LCST (2)	
Interdis.: Women's Studies (1)	
Interdis. Self-Designed: 4	